

## HERO OF OUR TIME

Rolihlaha Mandela was born in 1918, in Mvezo, a small village in southeast South Africa.

The time Mandela lived in South Africa was not auspicious for a black man like him. He grew up under the apartheid system of government, when the white minority ruled the country and black South Africans were segregated.

He refused to accept that system and became the leader of an underground political movement which strove for freedom for black people. He was arrested several times and finally sentenced to life in prison.

He spent twenty-seven years in jail but because of international pressure he was eventually released. He became the first black president of South Africa and received the Nobel Peace Prize.

He could have chosen vengeance, but he preferred reconciliation, thus contributing to peace and progress in his country.